



News Release

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Self-help housing project receives \$419,700 USDA grant

MILTON-FREEWATER, June 17, 2004 — A self-help housing project proposed by Horizon Project, Inc. received a \$419,700 grant from the Rural Housing program of USDA Rural Development. The award was announced today by Lynn Schoessler, USDA Rural Development State Director.

The grant will be used by Horizon Project, Inc., a private non-profit organization based in Milton-Freewater, to finance the construction of 20 homes. The program operates by offering homes to working individuals or families who will pay off some of the housing costs in “sweat equity”—by working on their own home construction, as well as that of their neighbor’s home construction.

Participants in self-help are limited by low-end income guidelines that have recently been raised so that even more families can take part in the program. Now an individual earning a gross income of \$26,250 or a four-person household making \$37,500 may qualify to participate in the self-help program.

The housing project will be located in the Northeast corner of Milton-Freewater, bounded by the Walla-Walla River, according to Rick Currin, chief executive officer of Horizon Project, Inc. a private non-profit corporation.

Construction at the Horizon Project, Inc. site will not begin until there are 10 families that have signed up for the program. The families will work together under the supervision of a professional building supervisor hired by Horizon Project, Inc.

Deleted: when the subdivision is completed. Completion is scheduled

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“The self-help housing concept works because people work to make a better live for themselves,” said USDA Rural Development State Director Lynn Schoessler. “Given a window of opportunity, they will do everything in their power to make the dream of owning a home come true.”

Groups and individuals are invited to volunteer and work with eligible program participants in building self-help homes. In addition, donations of cash or supplies are accepted.

For more information, contact Rick Currin at Horizon Project, Inc., (541) 938-5658.

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